



## Municipal Officials and Officers Ethics Commission

To: Mayor and Council  
From: Municipal Officials and Officers Ethics Commission  
Subject: Annual Report  
Date: December 16, 2015

### **Background**

The City's new Code of Ethics became effective June 9, 2013. A section of the new Code, §2-2111 requires the Municipal Officials and Officers Ethics Commission ("Commission") to submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council detailing the activities of the Commission during the prior year. This annual report covers the time period from June 9, 2014 – June 8, 2015.

The Charter established the Commission to render advisory opinions for Councilmembers, the City Manager, department directors, and members of boards and commissions on conflicts of interest and financial disclosure issues and to investigate and report on allegations of violations in these areas. The Code of Ethics expanded the jurisdiction of the Commission to include all city employees and to grant waivers of the Code of Ethics.

The Commission meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month.

### **Advisory Opinions**

The Commission received one request for an advisory opinion.

- A council candidate requested an advisory opinion on conflicts of interest. The candidate withdrew the request at the Commission meeting after deciding to eliminate the potential conflicts.

### **Waivers**

The Commission did not receive any requests for waivers of the Code of Ethics this year.

### **Complaints**

The Commission received one complaint.

- The complaining party presented his complaint to the Commission. The Commission also reviewed the written complaint and the accompanying exhibits. After thorough discussion and consideration, the Commission concluded that it lacked jurisdiction to take action on the complaint as it involved Kansas City Police Department employees

and officials. A copy of the Commission's conclusion was forwarded to the KCPD Board Secretary.

### **Campaign contribution limitation ordinance**

The Commission completed its review of proposed changes to §2-53, Code of Ordinances (campaign contribution limitation ordinance). The Commission's suggested changes were incorporated into Ordinance 140339, which Bill Geary sponsored for Council consideration. On behalf of the Commission, Chair Lajuana Counts testified in support of this ordinance before the Finance Ethics & Governance Committee. This ordinance was passed by the Council on June 12, 2014, as a committee substitute, and contained the Commission's suggested changes.

### **Campaign contributions**

The Ethics Compliance Officer, Bill Geary, provided three updates to the Commission on campaign disclosure reports filed by mayoral and council candidates. The Commission authorized the Ethics Compliance Officer to examine any campaign contributions that appeared to violate the City's campaign contribution limitation ordinance. The Commission directed the Ethics Compliance Officer to bring to the Commission's attention any matters that were not readily resolved. The Ethics Compliance Officer reported that the ordinance had been followed by all candidates.

### **City Auditor reports**

The City Auditor made 7 presentations to the Commission. The City Auditor is required to forward all audits to the Commission pursuant to §2-112(b)(1), Code of Ordinances. The Commission did not find any audit items warranting Commission investigation.